A light blue background featuring a white line-art map of the New York City waterfront, including the Hudson River, East River, and various islands and piers.

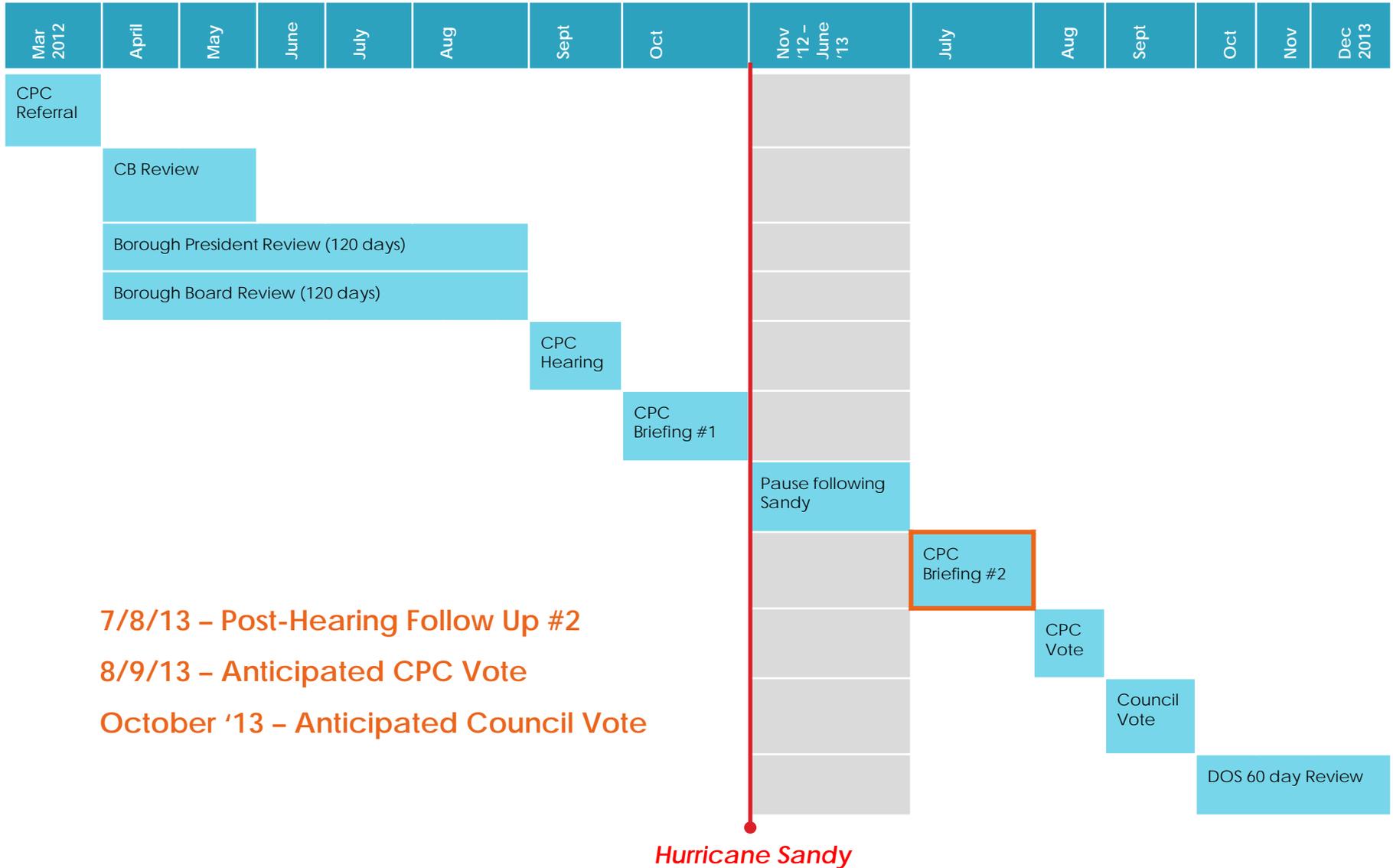
Revisions to NYC's Waterfront Revitalization Program

Post-Hearing Follow Up #2
July 8 2013

Agenda

- Recap of WRP adoption process
- Recap of WRP revisions
- WRP and Post-Sandy Initiatives
- Public comments and recommendations

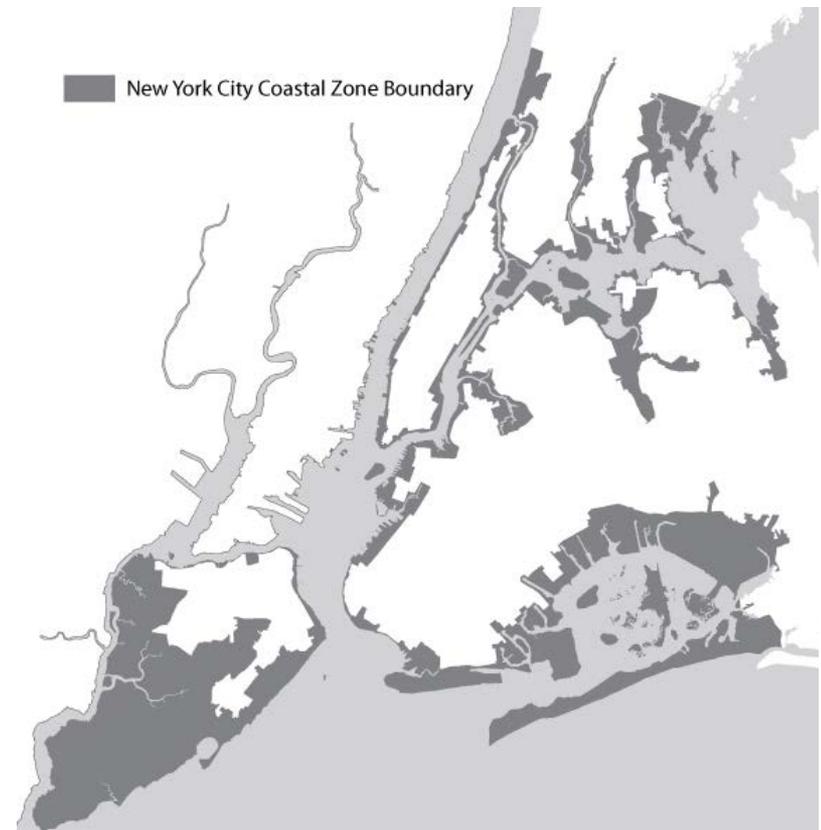
WRP Schedule



What is the WRP?

The **New York City Waterfront Revitalization Program (WRP)** is a planning tool that helps shape and improve certain coastal projects by requiring that they are evaluated for consistency with 10 policy objectives.

Projects in the **Coastal Zone** which require a federal, state or city discretionary action are subject to WRP review.





Background

- 1972: Federal Coastal Zone Management Act
- 1981: New York State Waterfront Revitalization of Coastal Areas and Inland Waterways Act
- 1982: NYC's first Waterfront Revitalization Program
- 2002: New NYC Waterfront Revitalization Program



WRP Consistency Review

Land Use applications → City Coastal Commission

Federal or federal/state actions → NYS Dept. of State



WRP Consistency Review

- Coordinates existing regulations, but does not add additional regulation.
- Helps inform discretionary decisions based on a set of established policies.
- The WRP mandates a process, but not a specific result.
- May result in project modifications to ensure achievements of WRP policies.



Policy Areas

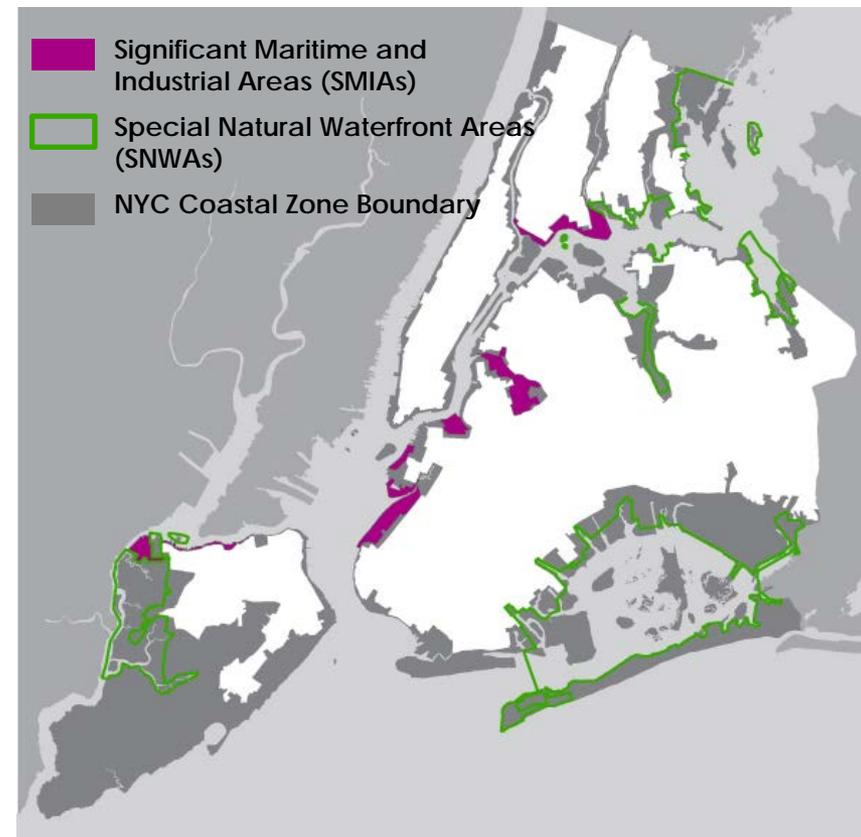
There are 10 policy areas in the current WRP:

1. Residential and Commercial Redevelopment
2. Maritime and Industrial Development
3. Waterways Usage
4. Ecological Resources Protection
5. Water Quality
6. Flooding and Erosion
7. Hazardous Materials
8. Public Access
9. Visual Quality
10. Historic, Archaeological, and Cultural Resources

Special Area Designations

Existing special area designations within the Coastal Zone:

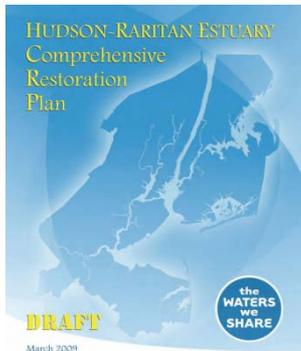
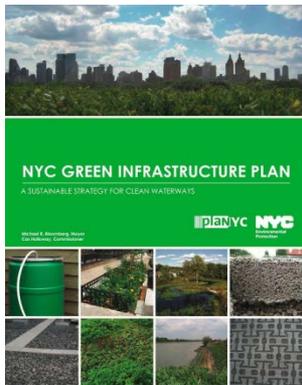
- **Significant Maritime and Industrial Areas (SMIAs)** – areas that are prime for waterfront industry
- **Special Natural Waterfront Areas (SNWAs)** – biodiversity-rich areas that require intensive habitat protection and improvement efforts





Why revise the WRP?

- Advance the goals and priorities of *Vision 2020* and other recent plans and reports (i.e. *PlaNYC*, *Green Infrastructure Plan*, *Comprehensive Restoration Plan*)



Introduce Climate Change Planning into the WRP

- Require projects to assess the vulnerabilities associated with coastal flooding based on climate change projections.



Governors Island Park Master Plan takes in sea level rise into consideration, elevating many sections of the park above the projected future flood plain.

Improve the Working Waterfront

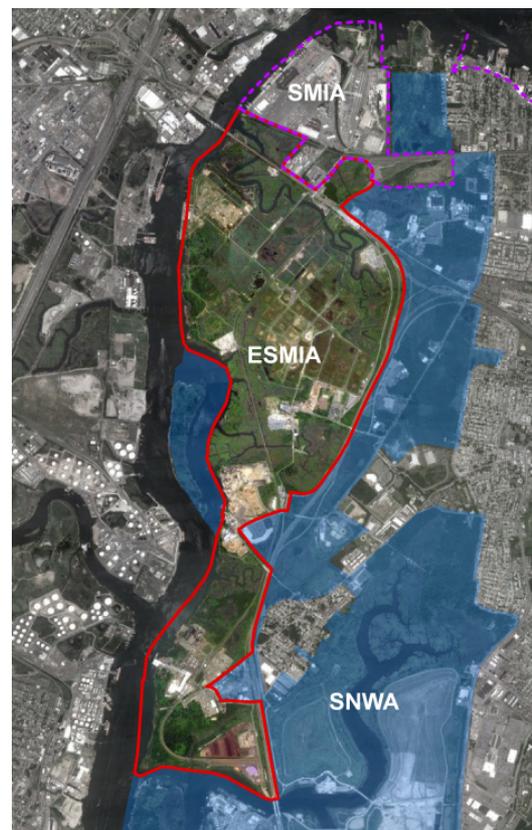
- Strengthen the prioritization of water-dependent uses in SMIA's
- Create and map a new designation to be called the **Priority Marine Activity Zones** to promote shoreline infrastructure for waterborne transportation.



Priority Marine Activity Zones (PMAZ)

Ecologically Significant Maritime and Industrial Area

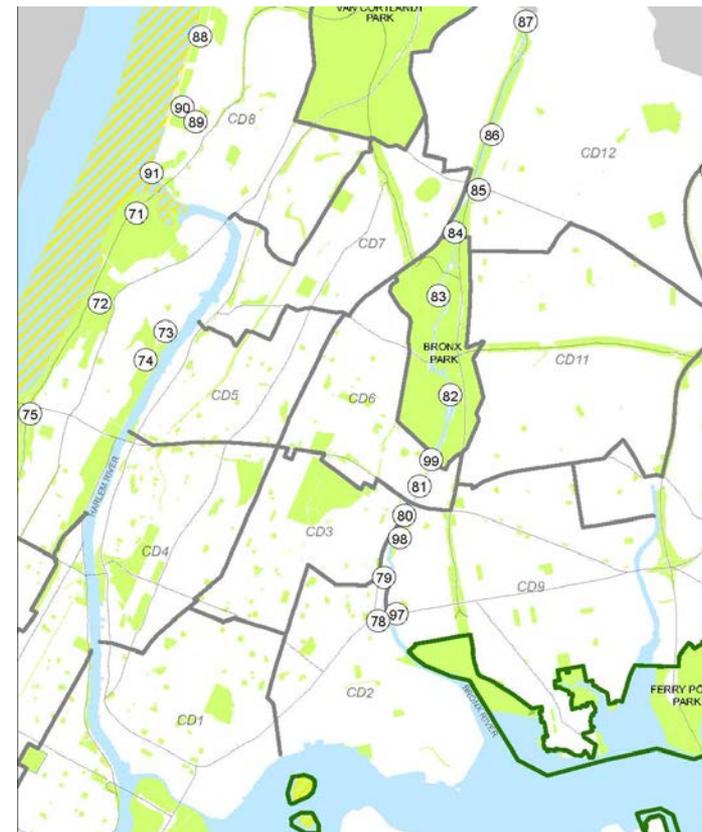
- Promote industrial development in concert with ecological preservation along the West Shore of Staten Island by creating a new designation, the **Ecologically Significant Maritime and Industrial Area (ESMIA)**.



Ecologically Sensitive Maritime and Industrial Area (ESMIA)*

Promote a range of restoration goals city-wide

- Identify additional ecologically-significant sites as **Recognized Ecological Complexes**, and promote their protection, remediation, and restoration.



Recognized Ecological Complexes (REC)

Increase public access to, from and around the waterfront

- Promote in-water recreation in safe and suitable locations and describe a set of criteria for evaluating if a site is safe and suitable.
- Incorporate design principles for waterfront public spaces described in *Vision 2020*.



Red Hook Boaters at Valentino Pier, Brooklyn

Public Comments: Major Topic Areas

- Industrial area policies
- Wetlands
- Climate change adaptation
- Hazardous materials and toxic chemicals
- Public access in industrial areas
- Post-Sandy revisions

Industrial Area Policies

Comments on policies – Industrial Area Policies

Public Comment

The policy language for redevelopment inadequately protects local industrial jobs and businesses

Response

Clarify the intent of the relationship between Policy 1 (Residential and Commercial Redevelopment) and Policy 2 (Maritime and Industrial Development). Policy 2 is to “support maritime and industrial activity in the SMIA’s”. Policy 1 states that redevelopment may be considered where land is vacant and underused, subject to consideration of Policy 2.

Wetlands

Comments on policies – Wetlands

Public Comment

The WRP should protect other ecologically sensitive areas located in the Sunset Park SMIA or adjacent to the South Bronx SMIA by designating those areas as ESMIAs

Response

Clarify language that ESMIA principles should apply in SMIAAs near significant natural resources.

Climate Adaptation

Comments on policies – Climate Adaptation

Public Comment

Require that all projects conduct a “formal risk assessment” by a qualified architect or engineer.

Unless proven infeasible, mitigate threats identified, particularly for industrial pollution prevention.

Response

Clarify language in Policy 6.2 A to include identifying vulnerabilities and general consequences, but do not use the phrase “risk assessment”

Incorporate suggestion that the assessment should be undertaken by a “licensed architect, engineer or other qualified professional”

Rather than mitigating all threats, Policy 6 ensures that design techniques to address vulnerabilities related to climate change are identified and incorporated into projects where appropriate and practicable.

Hazardous Materials

Comments on policies – Hazardous Materials

Public Comment

The WRP does not adequately address the transferring, storage and use of hazardous materials, particularly in light of climate change.

Response

The WRP is not a good vehicle for oversight of ongoing daily operations. Retain reference to the siting of the storage of hazardous materials.

Public Access in Industrial Areas

Comments on policies – Public Access

Public Comment

Require an appropriate form of waterfront public access, unless proven infeasible & unsafe, in the SMIA's and ESMIA's.

Response

This would superimpose new public access requirements on those projects subject to WRP review, and contradict established public policy established under zoning.

However, add language to Policy 8 to expand list of types of public access to be encouraged in industrial areas.

Comments on maps

Priority Marine Activity Zones

Comment	Maps
<p>Priority Maritime Activity Zones map should be revised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modified in Greenpoint to include the foot of Manhattan Avenue in proximity to the Greenpoint Boathouse 	<p>Orthophoto Base Map Copyrighted by the New York City Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications. All rights reserved.</p>

Comments on maps

Coastal Zone Boundary

Comment	Maps
<p>The modified Coastal Zone Boundary line should on its easterly axis from the Hudson River be Independence Avenue or the most proximate mapped street equally distant from the Hudson River except as to the Marble Hill portion which should continue as currently mapped remains as mapped.</p>	 <p>Independence Ave or equivalent should be eastern boundary of CZB except at Marble Hill</p> <p>CD8</p> <p>Orthophoto Base Map Copyrighted by the New York City Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications. All rights reserved.</p>

Comments on maps

Recognized Ecological Complexes

Comment	Maps
<p>Specifically designate the entirety of the shoreline at Inwood Hill Park, Baker Field, the area of the proposed Sherman Creek esplanade and in general the shoreline north of Sherman Creek as Recognized Ecological Complexes</p>	 <p>Orthophoto Base Map Copyrighted by the New York City Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications. All rights reserved.</p>

Post-Sandy Proposed Revisions

Highlighted Post-Sandy Initiatives

Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Resiliency

Following Hurricane Sandy, the Mayor launched an initiative to establish strategies for the long-term resilience of NYC to coastal flooding and other climate risks.

FEMA Flood Map Updates

FEMA is in the process of updating NYC's flood maps. Following Hurricane Sandy, FEMA has released non-regulatory maps to provide near-term guidance.

NYC Panel on Climate Change

The City is working with climate scientists and research institutions to provide updated projections of climate change.

Flood Resilience Text Amendment

DCP has introduced a zoning text amendment that enables buildings to be constructed and retrofitted to flood resilience standards based on the latest available FEMA maps.

Building Code Updates

DOB has initiated amendments to Appendix G of the NYC Building Code to improve flood resilience requirements.

Waterfront Revitalization Program

DCP has introduced revisions that include important policies on climate resilience for consistency review.

Post-Sandy Revisions

Comment

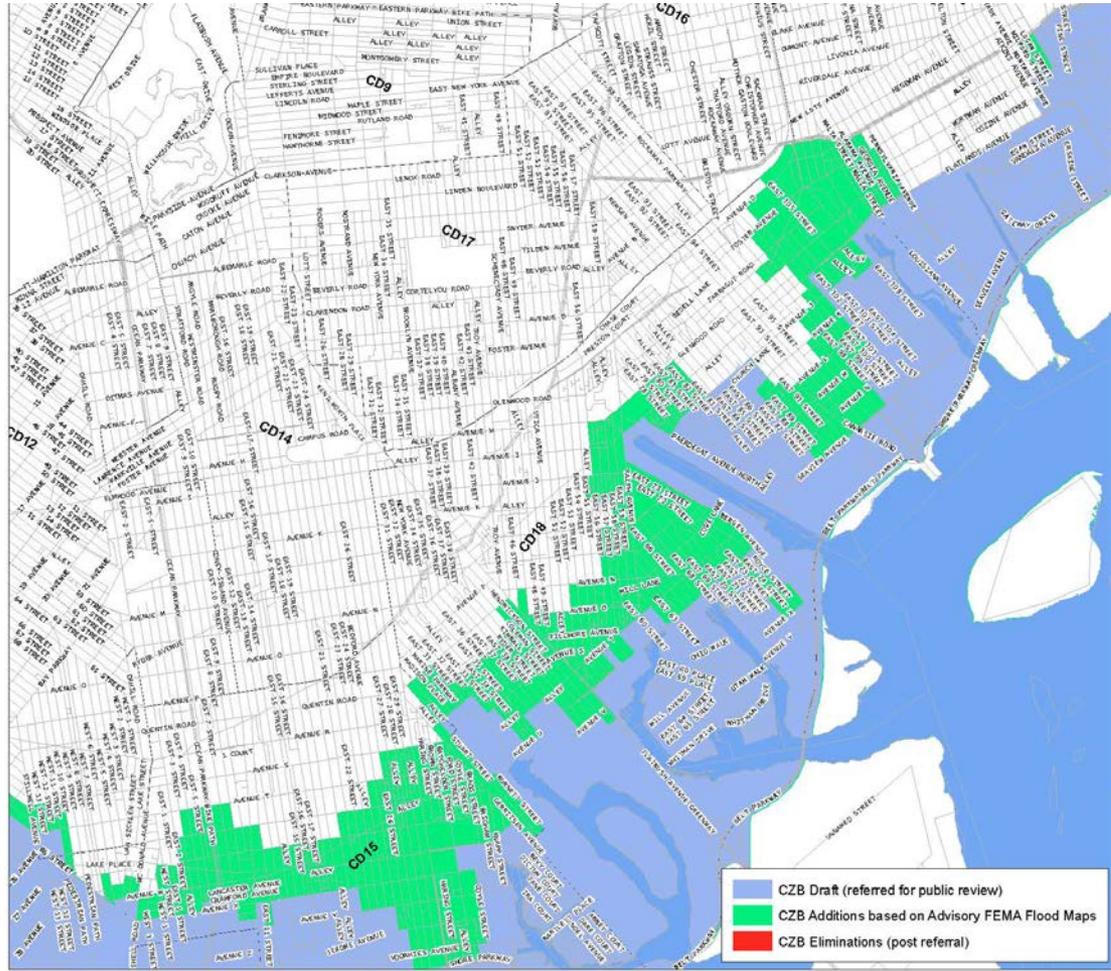
Modify the WRP based on lessons learned from Hurricane Sandy.

Proposed Modification

- Improve the resiliency of marinas
- Highlight the importance of dunes in beach nourishment projects
- Encourage multifunctional coastal protection infrastructure that has a range of co-benefits
- Incorporate resilient shoreline design into waterfront public space guidelines

Post Sandy Proposed revisions: maps

Coastal Zone Boundary

Proposed Revision	Map (Example)
<p>Expand the Coastal Zone Boundary to include the most current FEMA Flood Maps (500-year)</p>	
<p>Create a process by which the Coastal Zone Boundary can be updated as new FEMA flood become available.</p>	

Revisions to NYC's Waterfront Revitalization Program

